## RHODES, HIERONYMUS, JONES, TUCKER & GABLE, P.L.L.C. LAWYERS

ONEOK Plaza 100 West 5th Street, Suite 400 Tulsa, Oklahoma 74103-4287 Telephone (918) 582-1173 Fax (918) 592-3390 www.thodesokla.com

Mailing Address P.O. Box 21100 Tulsa, Oklahoma 74121-1100 Chris L. Rhodes, III Bert M. Jones John H. Tucker Jo Anne Deaton Dan S. Folluo Ann E. Allison Andrew D. Downing Bradley A. Jackson Colin H. Tucker Kerry R. Lewis
Leslie J. Southerland
Nathan E. Clark
Theresa Noble Hill
Carlye O. Jimerson
Bradley S. Shelts
Lindsay J. McDowell
Margaret M. Clarke
Denelda L. Richardson

Hal Crouch (1902–1947) Chris L. Rhodes (1902–1966) E. D. Hieronymus (1908–1994) George W. Gable (1918–2000)

- Est. 1931 -

## **Rhodes**Hieronymus

Reply to: John H. Tucker jtucker@rhodesokla.com

**EXHIBIT** 

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September 26, 2005

Certified Mail Return Receipt Requested

City Clerk City of Watts County Road 08049 Watts, Oklahoma 74964

Watts Public Works Authority County Road 08049 Watts, Oklahoma 74964

Re:

Notice of Claim Pursuant to Oklahoma's Governmental Tort Claims Act and Notice

of Claim pursuant to Solid Waste Disposal Act

Dear Sir/Madam:

Pursuant to OKLA. STAT. tit. 51 § 156 and 42 U.S.C. § 6972(a)(1)(B), Cargill Turkey Production, LLC ("CTP") and Cargill, Inc. ("Cargill") are providing you with its ninety-day notice of claim.

On June 13, 2005, the Attorney General for the State of Oklahoma filed a lawsuit in the Northern District of Oklahoma against CTP, Cargill and other companies. On August 19, 2005, the Attorney General filed his First Amended Complaint. A copy of the First Amended Complaint is attached hereto. In its Amended Complaint, the State of Oklahoma has asserted claims under the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act ("CERCLA"), 42 U.S.C. § 9601 et seq., the Solid Waste Disposal Act ("SWDA"), 42 U.S.C. § 6972, state and federal statutes, and state and federal common law. Because the Attorney General served this lawsuit on CTP, Cargill and other companies, the same law requires that CTP and Cargill provide a 90-day notice to any other entity, party or company that they claim should a be a part of any lawsuit filed by the Attorney General.

In his Amended Complaint, the Attorney General alleges that Illinois River Watershed has been damaged by poultry litter and its constituents, including the nutrients contained within poultry litter such as phosphorous and phosphorous compounds, and nitrogen and nitrogen compounds. The Attorney General is claiming that poultry litter is a federally regulated solid and/or hazardous

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waste, and that its use in this Watershed is creating an "imminent and substantial endangerment to human health and the environment." The heart of the Attorney General's claim is that when poultry litter is applied to the land within the Watershed as a fertilizer, excess phosphorous and other components of the litter run-off the land and enter into the waters of the State of Oklahoma causing environmental harm.

CTP, Cargill and the other companies deny that poultry litter or nutrients, such as phosphorus, are solid or hazardous wastes, that any damaged has occurred, or that they or their contract poultry growers have violated any law. However, since the Attorney General claims that the release of the constituents of poultry litter including nutrients into the Illinois River Watershed are the source of alleged damages, other sources such as municipal waste systems, recreational facilities and their waste handling facilities, may be potentially liable under the same theories under state and federal law. You are receiving this notice pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 6972(a)(1)(B) and OKLA. STAT. tit. 51 § 156, because your activities may be contributing nutrients and other substances to the waters in the Illinois River Watershed, by virtue of your operations of the aforementioned types, and the Attorney General has claimed that such nutrients and substances are causing an "imminent and substantial endangerment to human health and the environment."

CTP, Cargill, and the other companies deny the State's allegations, including that damage has occurred and deny that they are responsible for any such damage. However, because the State of Oklahoma instituted this litigation, CTP and Cargill intend to bring Third-Party Complaints against you, other point source contributors, and other non-point source contributors seeking relief in the form of an injunction requiring the third-parties to participate with CTP, Cargill and the other companies in each and every aspect of relief the Attorney General intends to achieve to the extent permissible under Oklahoma's Governmental Tort Claims Act. CTP and Cargill will also seek all other equitable and legal remedies available.

The State of Oklahoma is seeking the following in its First Amended Complaint:

- I. All past monetary damages suffered by and all costs and expenses incurred by the State of Oklahoma in the Illinois River Watershed:
- II. All future monetary damages suffered by and all costs and expense incurred by the State of Oklahoma as result of and in connection with the continuing effects of the wrongful conduct in the Illinois River Watershed;
- III. A permanent injunction requiring the immediate abatement of pollution-causing conduct in the Illinois River Watershed, to remediate the Watershed, including the lands, waters and sediments therein, and to take all such actions as may be necessary to abate the imminent and substantial endangerment to the health and the environment;
- IV. All costs associated with assessing and quantifying the amount of remediation and natural resource damages as well as the amount of the natural resource damages itself;

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- V. Restitution in an amount sufficient to make the State of Oklahoma whole for loss and damages it has suffered by release of these alleged constituents into the Illinois River Watershed;
- VI. Disgorgement of all gains realized in consequence of the release of these alleged constituents into the Illinois River Watershed:
- VII. Statutory penalties; and
- VIII. Reimburse the State for its attorney's fees and costs.

CTP and Carqill shall seek the same relief from Third-Party Point Source Contributors and Non-Point Source Contributors including the City of Watts to the extent permitted by law. It is CTP and Cargill's position that any comprehensive and effective resolution to reduce the level of these constituents in the Illinois River Watershed must involve all stakeholders and potential contributors.

John H. Tucker

JHT:sw Enclosure

CC:

The Honorable Brad Henry Governor of the State of Oklahoma State Capitol, Room 212 Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

Richard Green Regional Administrator **Environmental Protection Agency** Region 6 1445 Ross Ave. Ste 1200 Dallas, TX 75202

The Honorable W.A. Drew Edmondson Attorney General of the State of Oklahoma 2300 N. Lincoln Blvd., Ste 112 Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Stephen J. Johnson Administrator

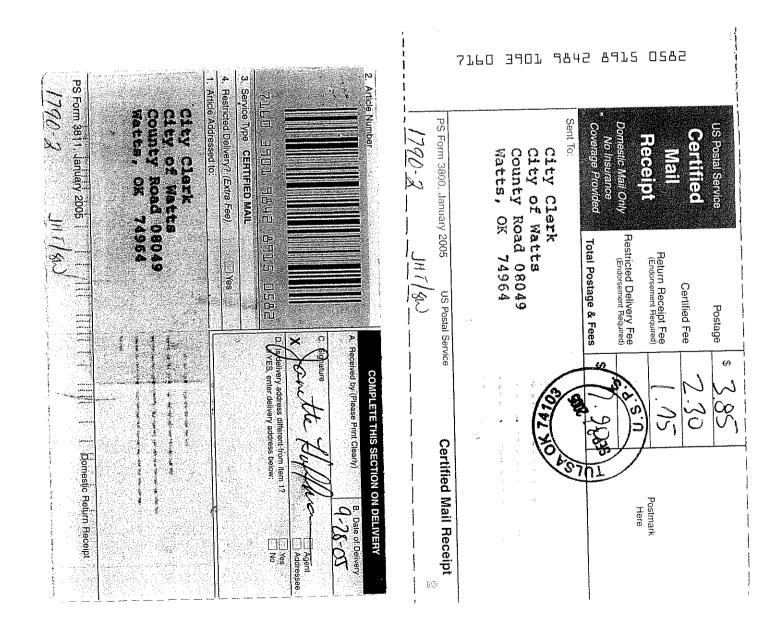
**Environmental Protection Agency** 

Ariel Rios Building

1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW Washington, DC 20460

Steve Thompson **Executive Director** Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality P.O. Box 1677

Oklahoma City, OK 73101-1677



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